

Abstract

Methods and compositions based on the elucidation of the role of Prox1 in lymphatic tissue development in normal and tumor tissue are provided. Included are methods for determining the extent of lymphatic involvement in a tumor, methods for purifying endothelial precursor
5 cells predisposed to develop into lymphatic tissue, and methods for promoting the development of lymphatic tissue. Pharmaceutical compositions and gene therapy vectors useful in the latter methods are provided.